

Press Release August 2012

Murphy appointed Artistic Advisor to New European Festival

Dutch-based Australian conductor Simon Murphy has been appointed artistic advisor and music programmer to the new “European Life I Live” festival in The Hague.

Incorporating music, dance, theatre, and the culinary and visual arts, the new, multi-disciplinary festival celebrates the sights, sounds and tastes of Europe. The festival is supported by the city of The Hague and the E.U. Commission in The Netherlands, and is part of The Hague's bid to become European cultural capital city in 2018. The inaugural festival edition will be held on Saturday 8 September 2012.

The festival will take place on the classic tree-lined boulevard of the Lange Voorhout in the middle of the old centre of The Hague. A stone's throw away from the city's historical opera houses and concert halls – once graced by figures such as Mozart, Beethoven and Pavlova – this special festival location will now become host to some of the foremost international artists of today in a programme exploring the richness and diversity of European cultural life.

The festival's classical/jazz programme includes:

- Dutch harp superstar and 2012 Edison Music Award winner, Lavinia Meijer, performing music by the French Romantics and Impressionists in a programme entitled *French Kiss*
- Modern European jazz heroes, the Rembrandt Frerichs Trio, performing music from their new album *Continental*
- Chinese-American pianist Shuann Chai exploring the The Hague's musical heritage with works by some of the city's illustrious musical visitors – Beethoven, Hummel and Dussek
- Soprano Luciana Cueto singing Spanish, Portuguese and Italian Renaissance songs in the programme *Spanish Lullaby*
- Boreas Quartett Bremen performing consort music from 16th and 17th century England, the Low Countries and Germany in the programme *London Calling*
- American concert Baroque cellist Caroline Kang performing Bach's cult classics, the *Cello Suites*, on a very special cello from Bach's time

“It has been a absolute delight to create the festival's music programme, especially, as this joyous new festival combines two of my favourite things – music *and* food!” Murphy said. “I have thoroughly enjoyed creating a programme which presents, explores and celebrates the depth and vibrancy of the European musical palette – from the subtlety of the French Impressionists through to the drama and immediacy of Mediterranean musical storytelling through to the richly intellectual and emotional, rhetorical tradition of Baroque Germany. In doing so, I have also really enjoyed being able to feature some very exciting newer artists in the festival programme – some already famous ones, but also some fantastic new musical jewels who are still a little bit undiscovered. I hope audiences will enjoy discovering them though the festival and experiencing their very exciting and fresh musical insights.”

View the 2012 Festival Promo: <http://vimeo.com/48084970>

See the 2012 Festival's Classical/Jazz programme: <http://www.lifeilive.eu/33.html>

More info on Simon Murphy: www.simonmurphyconductor.com